

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070662

FOLLOWING REPEAT WARSAW 1849 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BELGRADE
BERLIN BUCHAREST BUDAPEST MOSCOW PRAGUE SOFIA LENINGRAD USNATO
KRAKOW AND POZNAN BY POUCH MAR 06.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 1849

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN EGEN PL CZ HU IMF COMECON UR

SUBJ: FINANCIAL TIMES REPORT ON POSSIBLE

EAST EUROPEAN MEMBERSHIP ON INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

1. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. ON MARCH 3, CHRISTOPHER
BOBINSKI, WARSAW CORRESPONDENT FOR FINANCIAL TIMES (LONDON)
TOLD EMBASSY E/C COUNSELOR THAT THE MARCH 2 ISSUE OF THE
TIMES CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ON POSSIBLE POLISH,
CZECH AND HUNGARIAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE IMF. THE ARTICLE,
DATELINED WASHINGTON, REPORTEDLY SAYS THAT ALL THREE
COUNTRIES ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING AND THAT THE IMF IS
SENDING AN OFFICIAL TO WARSAW TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE POLISH
MEMBERSHIP. BOBINSKI DOES NOT HAVE THE TEXT OF THE
ARTICLE AND THE MARCH 2 ISSUE HAS NOT YET REACHED WARSAW.
END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

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2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: THE POSSIBILITY OF POLAND JOINING
THE FUND IS A SENSITIVE ONE INVOLVING THEIR
RELATIONSHIP WITH COMECON AND ALSO THE APPROVAL OF THE
USSR. UP TO NOW THE COMECON AND SOVIET ATTITUDE ON POLISH
AFFILIATION HAS APPARENTLY BEEN NEGATIVE.

3. IF THIS ARTICLE IS AS DESCRIBED BY BOBINSKI,

ITS APPEARANCE NOW IS UNFORTUNATE. IT WILL BE EMBARRASSING FOR THE POLES AND COULD SET BACK ANY INTRA-COMECON NEGOTIATIONS THEY MAY HAVE UNDERWAY. IT COULD ALSO LIMIT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ANY IMF TALKS WITH THE POLISH GOVERNMENT IF, AS THE ARTICLE ALLEGES, AN IMF OFFICIAL IS ACTUALLY TO BE SENT TO WARSAW. WE ARE AWARE OF HUNGARIAN INTEREST IN JOINING THE FUND, BUT HAVE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF CZECHOSLOVAK MEMBERSHIP MAY BE A BIT FURTHER REMOVED. THE LUMPING OF ALL THREE COUNTRIES TOGETHER MAKES US SUSPECT THAT THE ARTICLE IS BASED MORE ON RUMOR THAN ON FACT. END COMMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE REGARDING THE REPORT THAT AN IMF OFFICIAL IS COMING HERE FOR TALKS.

BROWN

UNQUOTE VANCE

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